Setting up of science education centre in Delhi University

1441. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a science education centre in the Delhi University during the current financial year: and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) and (b) Delhi University has decided to establish a Centre for Science Education and Communication. The Centre will have two major foci of activities, viz. science teaching and education within the formal system of educaton and activities outside it aimed at popularising science and increasing public awareness of scientific issues affecting our daily lives, the environment and matters of public policy. The details of the scheme are being worked out by a committee set up by the University.

Travel concessions to Newsmen

1442. SHRI M. A. BABY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government proposed to give travel concession facilities to accredited newsmen shortly:

(b) if so, what category of newsmen are proposed to be benefited by such facilities; and

(c) whether vernacular newsmen will also be provided such facilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Travel concessions both in First and second classes are already available to press correspondents accredited to the Central and State Governments. However, with effect from 11-9-86 the element of concession has been increased from 15 per cent to 25 per cent in First Class.

(c) Above concessions are available to newsmen of vernacular languages accredited to the Central or State Governments.

Appointment of Air Hostess in Indian Airlines

1443. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that knowledge of Hindi is not one of the essential qualifications for the post of air Hostess in Indian Airlines; and

(b) whether it is not, against the policy of the Government of India, for promotion of Hindi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Recruitment of airhostesses by Indian Airlines is made on a Regional basis. In view of the fact that candidates for the post of airhostess may be from different regions, some of whom may not be proficient in Hindi, the eligibility criteria for the post specifies fluency in English and one or more of the Indian languages'. This is not against the policy of the Government of India for the promotion of Hindi. In service training, Hindi is obligatory after the airhostesses join service.